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THE
CAUSES
OF THE
GREAT NUMBER OF DEATHS
AMONGST
ADULTS AND CHILDREN,
IN PUTRID, SCARLET FEVERS,
AND
ULCERATED SORE THROATS,
EXPLAINED;

WITH MORE SUCCESSFUL MODES OF TREATING THOSE
ALARMING DISORDERS;

AS PRACTISED AT THE ST. MARY-LE-BONE
INFIRMARY.

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London :

PRINTED FOR E. NEWBERRY, THE CORNER OF
LUDGATE-HILL.



DEDICATION.

TO

THE RIGHT HONORABLE AND HONORABLE

THE NOBLEMEN AND GENTLEMEN,

DIRECTORS AND GUARDIANS

OF

THE POOR OF THE PARISH OF

ST. MARY-LE-BONE,

WHOSE liberal sentiments and humanity, in the cause of the distressed, merit the approbation of all mankind, this small tribute is most respectfully dedicated, by their most obedient, humble servant,

Saville Row,
June 20, 1793.

The Author.



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INTRODUCTION.

THE causes of so many deaths happening in *putrid diseases*, will be briefly explained in the following short tract, which was not intended for immediate publication; but the fatality of the present alarming *scarlet fever*, and *putrid sore throat*, not only amongst children, but adults, urged its necessity;—*in tempore, quod rerum omnium est primum.*

The language of the performance has not been so much attended to, as the importance of the subject: if obscurity, therefore, has been avoided, and the intelligence delivered be sufficiently perspicuous for all classes of readers to understand, the author's intention will be fully answered.

The

The *putrid disorders* are so rapid in their fatal ravages, in many instances, that all the world should be in possession of the most effectual methods of not only preventing and repelling their attacks, but of curing them in the promptest manner.

If these disorders be misunderstood, and ill-managed ; or, if the most effectual modes of treatment be not spiritedly adopted, during the first *four and twenty, or forty-eight hours* from their commencement, the utmost exertions of human skill may fail in every attempt to cure ; to many melancholy instances of which, particularly amongst children, I have lately been a commiserating spectator, when called too late to be serviceable. On the contrary, if the disorders be well understood, and properly treated in the first moments, they are easily cured, and few, very few, or none, die, except those whose viscera

were unsound, or who labored under some previous disease.

The success attending the subsequent treatment of these disorders at the St. Mary-le-bone Infirmary, and in immense practice for a period of near thirty years before I became physician to that humane receptacle, cannot be too publicly known.

Several years ago a treatise was published on the cure of the *malignant ulcerated throat*, with objections to *fourteen* erroneous, yet common methods of treatment; but, as that book contained many reasonings more adapted to the perusal of the learned in the profession, than the public in general, this production was thought expedient; which, it is presumed, will be easily comprehended by every capacity.

1. It begins with observations on the fatality of the disease.

2. It shews the causes of the fatality.

3. It explains the improved method of treatment, as successfully practised, in many hundred instances, at the St. Mary-le-bone infirmary, with all the prescriptions used ; to which is added an English translation of the remedies.

4. A review of the most exceptionable practice of many esteemed authors in putrid diseases is introduced.

5. All the objectionable modes of treatment are extracted from the former treatise on the malignant fore throat ; and the domestic management and remedies are added.

6. The

6. The management of the *scarlet fever* of children, when accompanied with the *malignant, ulcerated, sore throat*, is lastly considered, which has so lately proved *fatal*, more by erroneous practices than the disease. As it is a tender point to condemn any gentleman's method of practice in particular; all individuals are spared, while the public good is promoted by general observations.

Such are the outlines of this concise practical performance. If it should prove as beneficial as the author wishes, thousands of lives may be annually preserved from the ravages of contagious, febrile, and putrid-tending diseases, and even the plague itself.

In the modes recommended in the following tract for treating putrid-tending diseases, from their first appearance, by *bark, vitriolic acids, cordials*, by a *stream of pure air* constantly supplied, and by excluding all *saline draughts*,

draughts, vomits, sweats, &c. &c. there is no occasion to wait for what physicians have called a *crisis*; for, the disorders being checked in the beginning, neither the usual dangerous symptoms, mentioned by all authors, nor a *crisis*, scarce ever happen, particularly in the malignant sore throat; for the disorder is cured with facility and certainty; it is nipped in the bud, and not suffered to branch out its deleterious influence over mankind, by contagion.

Without a minute regard to all the symptoms, it is sufficient to determine, that the disorders have a *putrid tendency*, when received by *infection*, and when we perceive *heat, great debility, a weak pulse, and brownish tongue*. I have always considered, that the medical practitioner has only two points in view to save the patients; namely, to check and counteract the evident and *destructive relaxation*, or want of *due cohesion* in the solids, and to

resist

resist the *putrid-dissolving* tendency of the fluids : all other considerations are subordinate to these, and all modes of cure that are not directed to these points must be useless or injurious.

I am convinced, that, in many instances, the *vitriolic acid*, when properly diluted, would answer these purposes, and, lately our infirmary practice has, in numbers, proved the fact : it is a much more powerful antiseptic than bark or any other.

A sensible and rational enquirer might ask, why the *vitriolic acid*, has not been more universally known and adopted in putrid diseases, as above a century and half has elapsed, since it was recommended by the *chemists*, and well known to cure those fatal distempers ?*

The

* It must be remarked, that some skilful practitioners have followed the plans here recommended ; but these are few, very few, in proportion to those who do not.

The answer shall be brief. The *Galenists*, who had seized all the power of regulating medical practice by their being professors of universities, and presidents and fellows of all the medical colleges in Europe, opposed, in the most acrimonious and malignant manner, the chemists, and all improvers; some chemists, through the extraordinary powers delegated to colleges by weak or uninformed princes, were fined, and imprisoned, for daring to give many chemical remedies, on which, now, we place our greatest dependence. *Sed tempora mutantur.*

On the Continent, it is a notorious fact, that many of the faculty grow white-haired and bald-headed in errors and prejudices; and, when these die, there are others who have become grey-headed under the former professors, these step into the *cathedra*, or professor's chair, and pursue the old beaten tracks, without ever reflecting they are erroneous, or ca-

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pable

pable of improvement ; and, even if they perceive errors, they are too indolent to expose or attack them ; but leave that task for those who follow in succession. If, however, a man should not have sufficient penetration to discover, early in life, the defects of the medical art, and if he possess not a warm desire and spirit to remove them, he never will, in old age, attack, much less defeat the hydra-headed monster of hereditary prejudices ;* some of the old *Galenical leaven* has, and will always remain, ready to raise a ferment, and excite an alarm on the introduction of every useful innovation.

It will be easy to perceive from whence, and by whom improvements, however important, have been and are opposed :
hence

* I am very happy to see that my learned and much respected friend, Dr. *Tatham*, of the university of Oxford, has attacked, with great erudition, many prevailing errors in university education. In my *Schola Medicinæ*, it will be proved, that the present general plans of medical education are radically defective, and proposals will be given for the purposes of reformation.

hence it will appear, why many ingenious men have been intimidated from promulgating important discoveries; for it requires more determined resolution than falls to the lot of every man, to attempt the introduction of new discoveries in a profession, where abundance of science is actually possessed by many individuals, who compose the body corporate.

The following little tract, it should be observed, is neither the language of inexperience nor chimerical hypothesis, but the result of above thirty years close observations, on thousands of practical facts; nor will the promulgation of the doctrines advanced, be ever relinquished, until the safety of mankind, laboring under putrid diseases, be more permanently established.

SUCCESSFUL METHOD

OF TREATING

PUTRID, MALIGNANT, AND INFECTIOUS
HOSPITAL FEVERS.

୧୯. ୧୯.

THE method of treating the *sore throat*, when *malignant*, *infectious*, *ulcerated* and *putrid-tending*, has proved very successful, in many hundreds of instances, since the first publication of the essay in 1788: indeed so *successful*, that if the remedies recommended, be timely applied, and the fourteen *unsuccessful* and *incongruous*, though too common practices, be avoided, the disorder is, to a certainty, curable. It would, however, be disguising the truth, if it were not asserted, that, in an extensive course of practice, I have observed many have fallen, and do still

fall victims, through a continuance of those erroneous modes of treatment, which have been so freely censured in the essay on the malignant, putrid-tending sore throat. *Bleeding*, in some instances, has been prescribed; *bleeding!* the most certainly destructive of all the bad practices enumerated. *Saline draughts, neutral salts, a cooling regimen,* have been prescribed, and powerful relaxing *perspirations* excited in the beginning of the disorder, and the *bark* has been given—given when it was *too late* to be serviceable; by which numbers have absolutely lost their lives, who, if they had been treated, in the first stage of the disorder, by *bark, vitriolic acids, cordials, and tonics*, with the admission of *pure air, &c.* might have been now living instances of the utility of the excellent and improved art of medicine.

Numerous facts of the *fatality* of the disease, when not *properly* treated, and many hundreds of instances of the disorder being generally curable, when *treated judiciously*, have made a strong impression on my mind: I have been filled with horror, on reflecting, that the former unfortunate events have been ow-

ing to a perseverance in error, or through want of information. Nothing can be more disagreeable than to censure the practice of others; for it commonly creates enemies; although the mal-practices may be destructive to the community: but there is a duty a physician owes to society, superior to all other considerations, which is, to freely discuss, and expose dangerous errors, and more especially, when improvements can be introduced, that may avert the fatality of a most dangerous disease; for what is more dangerous than the infectious and putrid?

After minutely examining the principal hospitals in Europe, namely in *France, Holland, Germany*, and all *Italy*, and observing the general practice in each, I can affirm, that *seventy* or *eighty die* out of every *hundred* in putrid-tending infectious diseases.

By having taken a survey of the whole practice most esteemed in Europe, if directed by an unprejudiced judgment, I hoped, there was some probability of improving the whole; for, by discovering and abandoning what was superfluous or ill-founded, and adopting what is supported by reason and successful practical facts,

facts, the whole practice of medicine may undergo an entire revision, very conducive to the future welfare of society, and to the honor of the art. There are few modes of cure, in medical practice, that do not admit of considerable improvement.

In putrid-tending diseases, although much has been effected, yet much remains to be enforced. If, on a true statement of indisputable observations, from *seventy* to *eighty* out of one hundred, have died of putrid-tending infectious fevers, when treated in the manner approved of by the most eminent physicians in Europe, and that, *not eight* in one hundred have died, when treated by my method at the St. Mary-le-bone Infirmary, *contrary* to the *common forms*, *contrary* to *those universally approved methods*; will any person presume to say, that there is not an extraordinary difference in the *dead list*? Will it not be acknowledged, that *saving* above *ninety lives* out of every hundred, by a new mode of treatment, is better than *losing* *seventy* or *eighty* in one hundred, by the old methods, however sanctioned?*

* At the infirmary, by an estimate made, I prescribe for about 400 patients weekly; the annual amount of the practice there, must be from 12 to 14,000 prescriptions.

It was necessary to declare these preliminaries relative to *putrid, infectious fevers*, previous to the introduction of the mode of practice that has been attended with extraordinary success at the *St. Mary-le-Bone Infirmary*. Though the following plans of treatment have been constantly pursued for a period of thirty years in private practice; yet they were not so decisive, nor so satisfactory, as the reiterated facts, which have been exhibited for some years at an infirmary, sacred to humanity, and to the numerous wants of the indigent and helpless.

From the most decided conviction, and from attending many hundreds in the diseases called *putrid*, it may be affirmed, that thousands have, and do perish, through the prejudices of *Boerhaave's*, and other subsequent systems; and it is likewise affirmed, that as many thousands may be saved by relinquishing those prejudices.

After freely delivering these sentiments on disorders, that have, and do make such frightful havock amongst *inferior mechanics, soldiers, sailors*, and even the higher classes,

classes, while infectious diseases spread their deleterious influence, the simple and consistent modes of cure, that have proved so very successful, shall be faithfully delivered.

The fevers called *putrid*,* are those, in general, that are *infectious*, capable of spreading their baneful influence from infected patients, to persons not infected; who, likewise, in certain stages of the disease, communicate the fever to others, and thus it may be justly called, an epidemic acute feverish disease, arising from the reception of air contaminated with putrefactive particles.

These

* Some gentlemen, who are fond of disputing about mere words, deny that any putrid disease exists, because the word implies, corrupted; nothing, while it lives, can be said to be putrid or corrupt; *ergo*, there can be no putrid disease. I think life too short to spend time in idle disputation; but must observe, that the *causes* of putrid disorders, as they have been called, have arisen commonly from *animal* or *vegetable putrefaction*, and I cannot perceive any great impropriety in nominating a disorder from its evident and acknowledged *cause*: if, however, those who are fond of cavilling think otherwise, I have called these disorders *putrid-tending*, *infectious diseases*, which might be likewise objected to, as not sufficiently distinct; for all disorders that end fatally might be called *putrid-tending diseases*, because death is productive of putrefaction or corruption: the putrid are quite, however, distinct from the true inflammatory, as experienced practitioners well know.

These *putrid, infectious fevers* are distinguishable from the *true inflammatory*, from *nervous* and *intermittents*, by this one sign; namely, that the first are infectious, the latter not, exclusive of various differences in the symptoms.

The *putrid fevers*, in which the methods of cure have proved so successful, have arisen in general, from *air* contaminated with the putrefactive particles of dead human bodies in a state of putrefaction: where the exhalations of the putrid bodies tainted the surrounding air, and where the most decided putrescent appearances, amongst many hundreds of the infected, were soon perceived, as *brown tongue*, *heat*, *thirst*, *purple spots*, &c: therefore, it is presumed, no proofs of a successful practice can be exhibited more decisive in the cure of putrid-tending diseases, than the subsequent.*

The same plans of cure have not only succeeded in the malignant, putrid sore throat, and putrid fevers; but likewise, in a variety of remarkable instances of the worst species of the *confluent small-pox*, accompanied with *purple spots* in different parts of the body,

* The facts came before the humane guardians of the poor, for the parish of St. Mary-le-Bone; in consequence of which, a new infirmary is now building.

and with all those symptoms that have been, and are always, considered fatal.

*The successful Mode of treating Putrid Fevers,
as practised at the St. Mary-le-Bone In-
firmmary.*

1. On admission, the poor patients are put immediately into a warm bath, and thoroughly cleansed.

2. The clothes they have worn are taken from them, and clean, sweet dresses, allowed by the infirmary, are put on.

3. They are then conducted to a clean bed, without curtains.

4. The windows, some of which are made to swing in certain directions, are always open, as likewise the doors, winter and summer, in order that fresh air may be continually supplied, and the noxious air, and putrefactive particles may be excluded.

5. Fumes of herbs are diffused, with vinegar, &c. and gunpowder wetted, so as to make what is called wild-fire, is fired on shovels of red-hot coals.

6. All offensive smells are immediately removed by the nurses, and every effort is

exerted to purify the air, and exclude what is foul. Nothing contributes more to the cure of *putrid-tending diseases*, than the constant admission of a *stream of fresh air* through the apartments.

7. All the *fourteen* erroneous and incongruous methods of treatment, such as bleeding, saline remedies, sweats, &c. &c. mentioned in the Treatise on the malignant, ulcerated fore throat, are carefully avoided.

8. All *animal foods*, and even *broths*, are forbid. *Sago, salep, rice, panada*, and *wine*, are allowed, and given occasionally, in small portions, as food.

9. The *vitriolic acid* is mixed with water and sweetened, so as to make a pleasant, grateful drink, or the *tincture of roses* is used as common drink.

The acid of sea salt has been used, diluted with water; but, after repeated trials, it was found to occasion purgings, and, therefore, was excluded.

10. Other drinks are allowed, as mint and balm tea acidulated, barley water, rice gruel, &c. as circumstances may require.

Medicines

Medicines given.

First. The antiseptic purging powder, composed as follows :

No. 1. R. Pulv. rhei ℥j.

—— crem. tart. ℥ij. f. pulvis statim sumendus in pauxillo mellis, vel theriacæ communis.*

Or the intestines are opened by the following :

No. 2. R. Infus. fen. ℥iss.

Tinct. ejusdem ℥fs.

Pulv. crem. tart. ℥ij. f. haustus.†

Secondly. The antiseptic mixture composed as follows :

No. 3.

* *Translation of the Prescriptions.*

No. 1. Take of Powdered rhubarb 1 scruple.

—— cremor tartar 2 scruples. Make a powder to be immediately taken in a little honey, or common treacle.

† Cr:

No. 2. Take of Infusion of fenna 1 and $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.

Tincture of fenna $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.

Powdered cremor tartar 2 scruples, make a draught.

No. 3.

No. 3. R^x. Pulv. corticis Peruviani ʒss,

—— zingiberis ʒj.

Aq. pur. ℥j.

Acid. vitriolic. dilut. ʒij. M. f. mistura, cujus capi-
piat coch. iij. secundâ, tertiâ, vel quartâ quâque
horâ.*

To this mixture sometimes a little *brandy* or *tincture of bark* is added. If that preparation should disagree with the stomach, then three drams of the *extract* of bark are dissolved in fourteen ounces of the decoction of bark, to which are added, two ounces of the tincture, and one dram and a half of the *acid. vitriol. dilut.* or acid elixir of vitriol.

To cleanse the mouth, fauces, and tongue, especially if incrusted, or, what is called clammy, and furred, or if the *brown thrush* appears, the following solution of *borax* is used; it will certainly cleanse the foul, brown, or blackish colored tongue.

No. 4.

* *Translation of the Prescription.*

No. 3. Take of Powdered bark $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.

—— ginger 1 dram.

Water 1 pint.

Elixir of vitriol, or diluted vitriolic acid 2 drams. Make a mixture, of which take three table spoonfuls every two, three, or four hours.

No. 4. R. Borac. ʒij. solve in

Aq. pur. ʒviij.

Theriac. commun. ʒfs. f. gargarisma sæpe linguæ
vel dentibus adhibendum.*

The *borax* solution is applied to the tongue, and the part is gently rubbed; then with whalebone it is scraped, or by any other similar means.

The generality of patients are treated, as hath been related, from their admission into the Infirmary, until the putrid-tending fever is perfectly cured, by the means already mentioned, and above ninety, and sometimes ninety-five or ninety-six, out of every hundred, have been thus cured, which facts the Infirmary books fully testify, according to the report of *Mr. Hooper*, house-apothecary, who ascertained the number cured in every hundred. The putrid fever, by having its progress immediately checked, seldom becomes very violent, and many of the dangerous symptoms, mentioned by authors, in its different stages, never appear.

It

* *Translation of the Prescription.*

No. 4. Take of Borax 2 drams, which dissolve in half a pint of water.

Treacle a table spoonful, make a gargle.

It may be remarked, if the putrid, malignant, and infectious fevers were not sometimes accompanied with *difficulty of breathing*, *cough*, or *asthma*, that we should scarce ever lose a patient.

Those few, who have died amongst many hundreds infected, were either very *old*, had *coughs*, *difficulty of breathing*, or other symptoms, which have contra-indicated the use of the *bark* and *acids*.

Those, who had *coughs*, *asthma*, *difficulty of breathing*, or *pleurisy*, took the following mixture; and, amongst these, though some few died, yet, many others have recovered.

No. 5. R. Camphor. ʒj. solve in

Spt. vin. rect. ʒfs.

Mucilag. gum. arab. ʒvj.

Aq. pur. ʒxvss. M. cujus capiat coch. iij. tertiâ
quâque horâ.*

To this mixture sometimes were added two grains of the *antimonium tartarifatum*, or what was called, formerly, *tartar emetic*.

In

* *Translation of the Prescription.*

No. 5. Take of Camphor 1 dram, which dissolve in a table spoonful of rectified spirit of wine.

Mucilage of gum arabic 3 quarters of an ounce.

Pure water, nearly 1 pint, mix them, of which take three table spoonfuls every four hours.

In case of purging, the antiseptic laxative was occasionally repeated, to remove what irritated the intestines, and the following mixture given :

No. 6. R. Extract. ligni campechens. ʒij. solve in mistur. cre-
tac. ℥j.

Tinct. opii ʒiss. M. f. mistura.*

But purgings, that happen in putrid fevers ought not to be *imprudently checked*; for they are often salutary, therefore the astringent mixture was seldom used.

In nausea, or vomiting, the antiseptic laxatives were given, to convey the irritating causes through the intestinal canal.

Blisters were rarely applied, except in violent coughs, difficulty of breathing, or in the pleurisy, and then they were ordered to be placed on the *scrobiculus cordis*, or to the pained side.

Phrenitis

* *Explanation of the Prescription.*

No. 6. Take of The extract of logwood 2 drams, which dissolve
in one pint of chalk julep, or mixture.

Tincture of opium 1 and $\frac{1}{2}$ dram, make a mixture.

Brandy is added occasionally to this mixture.

Phrenitis putrida.

Many have, within these few years, come into the infirmary with the *phrenitis putrida*, a disorder hitherto not observed by any medical writer.

The *phrenitis putrida* is a *febrile delirium*, which occasions violent mental ravings from the first moment of the attack, soon accompanied with a *brownish tongue*, depressed quick pulse, &c.

It is distinguishable from the common *febrile deliriums*; because these, in general, come some few days after the fever has been present; but, in the *phrenitis putrida*, the disorder commenced with delirium, and immediately shewed a brownness on the tongue, &c.

It is distinguishable from the inflammatory phrenitis of the strong and plethoric, because in these, the surface of the tongue is dry and whitish in the beginning, the face is florid, the eyes staring, wild, vivid, and inflamed, and often it is accompanied with a strong, full pulse, and other symptoms of true inflammation.

Treatment.—A strait waistcoat was applied to secure the patients in bed, and to prevent them doing themselves, or others, mischief.

They took, first, the antiseptic laxative.

Then the camphorated mixture, with the *antimonium tartarifatum*, was commonly given during the night, when there was a considerable exacerbation of the symptoms.

They were sometimes blistered.

The *bark* and *acid* mixture was commonly given from the beginning, if no circumstance forbad its use; and many afflicted with this *putrid phrenzy*, by very little else than the antiseptic mixture, in two, or three weeks, more or less, perfectly recovered.

The *phrenitis nervosa*, or nervous, febrile phrenzy, with the white, moist tongue, low fever, &c. has been cured at the infirmary, by the same methods, and likewise the common low nervous fever, occasionally removing obstructions in the viscera, by *calomel*, &c. &c.*

* This disorder has been improperly supposed *madness* by some, who did not recollect, that a *delirium*, or *phrenzy with fever*, is not *madness*. The disorder a great personage laboured under, was not *madness*, as reported, but a mere *feverish phrenzy*, which I have publicly proved in a little pamphlet called *Truth Vindicated*, &c. lately re-published in the second volume of my works.

Small-Pox.

The confluent small-pox has been constantly treated in a similar manner, when *purple petechiæ, spots, or a brownish tongue,* appeared. The practice has been generally attended with extraordinary success in the small-pox, even amongst *pregnant women*.* There have happened six or seven cases of the *yellow, putrid, malignant fever*; these have all been cured by the same means; and I have known the early use of the *bark*, and vitriolic acid, very successful in the *West Indies*.

The cases alluded to, so successfully treated, were attended with *purple spots, brown tongue, &c.* but I am of opinion, that *purple petechiæ, &c.* would be prevented by the early use of the vitriolic acids, &c.

These

* Many years ago a fire happened at *Blandford*, in Dorsetshire, which consumed the town; amongst the sufferers, were above thirty persons afflicted with the *small-pox*; they were accommodated with cots or hammocks, or by other means, under the bridge, lying openly exposed in a stream of cold air, and they all recovered. This history I had from my friend John Tucker, Esq. Member for Weymouth, formerly; a striking proof of the utility of a continual fresh stream of air in *malignant infectious diseases*.

These indisputable facts and methods of treatment have been communicated to induce practitioners in medicine to depart from some prejudices, that have long had the sanction of the faculty.

After comparing the *fatality* of the *common* methods of treatment with the present success; after it has been ascertained, that from *sixty* to *eighty* have died, in every hundred by the common contradictory treatment, as practised by almost all the physicians in Europe; and that above *ninety*, out of every hundred, recover in the worst species of the putrid fever, when treated in the beginning by the *bark*, *acids*, &c. and by avoiding all *saline remedies*: it is presumed, no person will be so criminally obstinate, as to continue methods that often prove destructive, in contradiction to those modes that may annually *save thousands* of the human species.

I should not appear thus strenuous, were not the subject very important, and were I not convinced, that it is difficult, very difficult, to remove deep-rooted prejudices. These sentiments, perhaps, will be considered an attack on medical practitioners; for some may
receive

receive personally, what is intended to serve mankind professionally. There is nothing to apprehend, if error be persevered in, except the injury done to society; for the facts are irrefutable, and the new methods cannot be too soon universally received; nor the contradictory old doctrines, commonly practised, too soon exploded.

It may be necessary, previous to quitting the subject of putrid-tending, infectious diseases, &c. to produce a list of some of the medicines prescribed by the most approved writers in medicine. Those, which are here exhibited, are, in many instances, useless, absurd, injurious, or absolutely contrary to the intentions of cure.

From *Sydenham's Epidemics* of
1661, 1662, 1663, 1664.

Symptoms.—Great faintness, vomiting, *dry* and *black tongue*, great and sudden loss of strength, a dryness of the external parts, &c.

Bleeding not to be *omitted* without danger, in young people.

An emetic in the morning.

An opiate in the evening.

Cordials.

Waters of borage, citron, black cherries, compound scordium water, barley cinnamon water.

Prepared *pearl*.

Gascoign's powder.

Lapis contrayerva.

Leaf gold.

Treacle water.

Seeds of citron.

Syrup of cloves, &c.

And an abundance of such insignificant trifling practice.

For poor Persons.

Bleeding.

Vomiting.

Water, or barley gruel.

Warm small beer.

The application of the *heat* of a *strong, healthy young man*.—Was there ever any thing conceived more absurd?

Distilled waters of purslain and wild poppies, and syrup of white poppies, syrup of cowslips.

In

*In the inverted Motion of the Intestines, or
Iliac Passion.*

Salt of wormwood and lemon juice, mint
water.

A live puppy to be applied to the belly.

In the Plague or pestilential Fever.

Bleeding plentifully.

Diffipating the *pestilential ferment* by sweat.

Venice treacle.

Gascoign's powder.

Cochineal.

Saffron.

Juice of Kermes.

Distilled water of *carduus benedictus*.

Scordium.

Treacle water, and syrup of cloves.

Sweating.

Sydenham appears to have been more a *spec-*
tator than a *curer* of these disorders: the che-
mists of his time were much greater practical
physicians; but it has been the fashion to
praise this author, and all his absurdities,
even to this present moment, though the
most

most uninformed apothecary would be ashamed to follow his prescriptions in many disorders of which he treats.

Febrilis ardens, &c. from Boerhaave.

Demulcent aqueous drinks.

Bleeding.

Diluting clysters, cooling, &c.

Medicamenta aquosa, blanda, *nitrosa*, &c.

Boerhaave attempted to harmonize and unite all the sects of medicine: he wrote before he had seen much practice, and flattered all the sects, by tacking together many of their absurdities; as the galenical, chemical, the pretended *sectatores naturæ*, the mathematical, the geometrical calculators, the mechanical, the humoral, *Lewenhœckian*, and whatever he found plausible. The aphorisms are a surprising production of collected doubtful systems in one *focus*, and manifest superlative ingenuity: but what is most astonishing, and to be regretted, they fascinated all the medical profession for half a century; they are in some respects, excellent; in others, not only erroneous, but dangerous to society.

From

From Hoffman.

Emetics.

Alexipharmics.

Bezoardics.

Bleeding.

Blifters.

Elder flower water.

Waters of limes.

—— Scordium.

—— Scabius.

—— Carduus benedictus.

Juice of roses.

Powders of diaphoretic antimony.

—— of mother of pearl.

—— Crabs eyes.

—— Amber.

—— Terra figillata.

—— Burnt hartshorn.

Pure nitre.

Effence and extract of Scordium.

Vincetoxicum.

Dulcified spirit of nitre.

Decoction of scorzonera.

Shavings and jellies of hartshorn.

Orange flower water.

French oil of citrons, with sugar.

Confection of alkermes.

Balsam of life.

Essence of castor.

Cinnabar.

Succinated spirit of hartshorn.

Bezoardic powder, nitre and camphor.

Outwardly to the stomach, venice treacle, camphor, with spirits of wine, and sal ammoniac.

Oil of rue and lavender.

Hoffman was the most learned and best reasoner of his time ; but his practice was often puerile, and tinctured with a vicious credulity on the supposed efficacy of inert medicine.

From *Huxham*.

Bleeding.

Vomits.

To allay Vomiting.

Venice treacle in salt of wormwood mixture.

Juice of lemons, mint water.

Clysters of milk, sugar and salt.

Laxatives of manna.

———— Sal Polychrest.

———— Glauber's salts.

Diarrhœa

Diarrhæa or Dysentery to be restrained by

Theriaca Andromachi.

Astringent alexipharmics.

Confect. Fracastorii.

Blisters, in the decline of fevers.

From *Sir John Pringle*, late Physician to his
Present Majesty.

Vomits, then a bolus of theriaca, with salt
of hartshorn.

Bleeding.

Contrayerva powder and nitre.

Spiritus Mindererii.

Spirituuous waters and salt of hartshorn.

In Recovery.

Pil. Matthæi.

10 grains of asafœtida bis de die.

Lieutaud

Recommends antimonials, and observes, Sydenham said, “ that *malignity*, when applied to diseases, had slaughtered more than *gunpowder*.” I am concerned to say, that more have been slaughtered by *erroneous medical practices*, than by the sword.

From

From *Monro*.

Rhubarb or salts.

Emetic in the evening, a purge the next day.

Saline draughts, with the pulvis contrayerva.*

Afterwards cordials are united to the saline.

This author, however, judiciously recommends a free use of the bark.

If *Fox's* formula, collected for above thirty years from the practice of the most esteemed London physicians of the court, or otherwise, be examined, there will appear a very inefficacious practice in fevers.

Strange mixtures of contrayerva, &c.

Bezoar.

Castor.

Theriaca.

Syrup of saffron.

Vomits.

Nitre.

Cordial confection.

Valerian.

Asafcetida.

Sal succini.

* Gascoign's powder and compound contrayerva powder, bezoar, &c. &c. are all inefficacious remedies, except for acids in the stomach. A man may swallow a pound of such medicines without any evident effects.

Rhubarb, James's powder, and asafœtida.
Tartarum vitriolatum and pulv. e chel.
cancror. comp.

Flowers of chamomile and rose water, and a number of elaborate prescriptions, often futile, and, in many instances, contrary to the rules of chemical union : but, as the authors are no more, may their prescriptions be buried in peace ! They followed the prejudices of the day, and in putrid fevers must have frequently done much mischief.

Mead, in Cure of the Plague.

Light emetics.

Bleedings.

Sweating, &c.

Storck.

In general, this author well understands the use of the *cortex* in petechial fevers.

De Haen.

Home.

Neutral salts, as

Bleeding.

Sal nitre.

Vomiting.

— prunella.

Diaphoretics.

— polychrest.

Gregory.

Gregory.

Cullen.

Antiphlogistic regimen. Diluents.

Emetics. Neutral salts.

Diaphoretics. Sudorifics.

Emetics.

Such have been the erroneous practices of physicians, who are quoted as the highest authority by most practitioners in medicine.

In the antecedent list of remedies, there are many highly improper in the cure of putrid, contagious, or malignant and petechial fevers; yet among the authors cited, several *useful observations and rules* may be extracted, which, however, require no small share of medical sagacity to select from the dangerous, or useless.

Some of the remedies are ridiculous, others very exceptionable, but the incongruity of repeatedly bleeding, sweating, or giving cooling salts, &c. in hospital infectious petechial fevers, that generally require the *immediate* use and continuance of the bark, must appear obvious. The success, however, attending the fortunate plan of treatment delivered

vered in this short essay, is the greatest argument in its favor, as worthy the attention of physicians, and the public in general. It must be observed, that numberless practitioners, through want of information, or other causes, continue *bleeding, sweating, purging,* and *cooling*, or giving some one or other of the remedies censured; not reflecting on the mischiefs arising to society, and they are blameless, in a certain degree, because they follow the doctrines and practices of the most esteemed authors. The best writers have been erroneous in the particulars enumerated, though excellent in the treatment of many other disorders; and, though it may be very laudable to embrace their beauties; yet it is highly dangerous not to discover and avoid their fatal errors.

To the honor of the present practice of the *Vienna* physicians,* and the professors of *Edinburgh*,† the *bark* and *vitriolic acids* have been introduced in their works for the treatment of acute putrid diseases; but yet, they
have

* De Haen and Storck.

† Home, Cullen, and Gregory.

have retained some of the former prejudices of *Sydenham*, *Boerhaave*, &c.*

This present short essay, it is hoped, from the success of the practice, will induce physicians to abandon *bleeding*, *violent emetics*, *purging*, *sweating*, *cooling salts*, or *saline remedies*, *diluting drinks*, *blisters*, except in particular instances, *volatiles* and trifling *antispasmodics*, in such dangerous diseases: for most of these remedies are trifling or injurious, either in the commencement, or in *any stage* of acute putrid diseases. *Fire* and *water* cannot be proper at the same time, and in the same disease: *cordials*, *antiseptics*, and *tonics* cannot rationally be used, when *cooling salts*, *relaxants* and *diluters* are prescribed. Though strikingly absurd as those common practices must appear, yet most physicians, hitherto, have not only acquiesced in such contradictions, but have been angry when such fatal prejudices have been censured, and nothing but humanity and universal benevolence can induce any prudent man to stem the torrent of prevailing errors. Reformation in physic, however, cannot reasonably be expected, but from some spirited and experienced reformers,

* I have repeatedly visited the great *Vienna* hospital.

mers, who will vigorously attack prejudices at every hazard. It is owing to the united labors and efforts of zealous men, who preferred a benevolent humanity, to all other temporary considerations, that medicine has received its present degree of improvement.

After fully proving, in the presence of several medical practitioners, the success of the methods of treating putrid diseases; after shewing the defective or injurious treatment *still pursued* by the profession, a few excepted; after solemnly declaring, that in the modes I have adopted, none, or very few *dangerous symptoms* ever appear; and that all the disorder is rendered milder by opposing the putrid-tending disposition of the fluids and laxity of the solids, in the beginning of the disease: I cannot resist asserting, that practitioners, who continue to follow the enumerated errors of the writers mentioned, must prescribe physic, not for the salvation, but to the injury of human beings laboring under putrid diseases.

EXTRACTS

FROM

THE TREATISE

ON THE

PUTRID MALIGNANT SORE THROAT.

IN the treatise on the putrid-tending ulcerated sore throat, there are many objections to the modes of treatment, hitherto adopted by all the different authors who have written on that important subject.*

The

* The reason of mentioning those practitioners whose authority has had great weight and influence in medical practice, is not from any disrespect; for they have justly merited the esteem of society in eradicating some of the prejudices of their predecessors; and it is no reflection that they were unacquainted with many *newer* discoveries. The motive for introducing the names of those physicians is in consequence of frequently observing, that when patients have *died of this disorder*, practitioners have quoted and appealed to the writings of *Fothergill, Huxham, Pringle, &c.* in support of some inefficacious, and dangerous practice.

The first edition of that treatise having been long out of print, a second has been reprinted lately in the fourth volume of my works; but, as it may never be republished separately, and as in the foregoing short view of the treatment of putrid-tending fevers, mention is made of *fourteen* inconsistent medical practices, &c. some extracts, delineating what are those inconsistent and dangerous practices, shall be here exhibited. Whoever may wish to investigate more minutely the true reasons of all the objections produced, may examine the treatise itself in the volume already mentioned.

*The Methods of preventing the Infection of
putrid Fevers, ulcerated Sore Throat, &c.*

The preventive methods of counteracting this contagious disorder are of two kinds, domestic and medical.

The domestic prevention comprehends the modes already described when the disease is present: to which may be added the immediate removal from the situation where the

D

disorder

disorder actually predominates, to a distant part where it does not exist.

Those who are obliged to remain in the midst of the surrounding evils, should avoid, as much as possible, going near to patients already infected.

After cleansing the bowels with any light opening medicine, Glauber, Rochelle, or Epsom salts excepted,* a tea-spoonful of powdered bark may be taken in a glass of red wine and water, with a little grated ginger, three times a day.

Quilled bark, ginger, cinnamon, cloves, all-spice, pepper, or any aromatic, may be continually in the mouth, and lightly chewed, that their effects may pass to the fauces and stomach in conjunction with the saliva.†

The

* These salts are adapted to the true inflammatory diseases, but do mischief in the putrid: all learned practitioners know the reason; namely, that they are *relaxant* to the whole habit, &c.

† An *eleve* of mine, in the medical department last war, was ordered up the river *Gambia*, in Africa, where he was in his voyage three weeks, lying with the men in an open boat, or only covered with the sail forming an awning. The worst putrid diseases are very common in that country; but he effectually preserved the health of the men by giving them each a glass of Madeira wine three times a day, on condition that they should drink it mixed with a dram of *powdered bark*.

The chewing of tobacco, though disagreeable to many, or smoaking the dried plant, are useful preventives.

What relates to houses or rooms is fully considered in the observations and methods of cure contained in the treatise.

Tea, and *all watery liquids*, should be very sparingly drank while infectious diseases spread their baneful influence.

Wine, spirits, and ginger tea, punch, &c. are not improper; for they are often capable of resisting the power of the disease.

The common meats, but not broths, should be received as aliment, according to the season; less in very hot, more in cold weather.

All acids, and acid fruits, may be moderately used, provided there be no contraindication, as disagreement with the stomach, cholic, purgings, &c.

Whatever *strengthens* and invigorates the constitution, should be adopted; whatever *weakens* or enervates, should be avoided; therefore, all bitters, stomachics, and tonics are beneficial; antiphlogistics injurious.

Preparations and Remedies, which are frequently prescribed in the Putrid Fevers, and Sore Throat, which should be rejected.

Though enough, perhaps, has been advanced concerning the successful treatment of the disorder, contrasted with that which is either inefficacious or injurious, yet a brief recapitulation of the whole may not be unacceptable.

1. Class of improper diluting Drinks, &c.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Tea, and all watery infusions, unless acidulated with muriatic, vitriolic, or vegetable acids. | 3. Almond emulsion, capillaire syrup and water or orangeat. |
| 2. Water gruel, barley water, or any farinaceous drinks, or what are named <i>diluters</i> . | 4. Rennet whey, wine whey, and all warm, sudorific drinks. |

2. Class of improper saline Remedies.

All saline preparations, composed of the *vitriolic acid*, and the *vegetable* or *fossile alkali*, &c.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Glauber's purging salt. | 6. Sal enixum. |
| 2. Epsom salt, or <i>sal amarum catharticum</i> . | 7. Arcanum duplicatum. |
| 3. Rochelle salt. | 8. Nitrum stibiatum. |
| 4. Sal polychrest. | 9. Nitrum vitriolatum. |
| 5. Soluble tartar. | 10. Sal nitre, or sal prunell. |

3. Class

3. *Class of improper Remedies, composed of the vegetable Acid, and the vegetable, fixed, and volatile Alkali.*

1. *Saline draughts*, composed of juice and the volatile alkaline of salt of wormwood, and lemon juice.*
2. *Spiritus Mindereri*, formed from vinegar and volatile salt.
3. *Sal diureticus*, made from acetum and fixed alkaline salt.
4. *Volatile saline draughts* from the union of lemon
5. *Magnesia alba* is improper while acids are administered, as it forms a neutral salt.
6. *Testaceous powders* or *compound contrayerwa powder* must not be given for the same reason.

The general intentions of the three foregoing classes of medicines are either to *empty the intestinal canal*, to *diminish the febrile impetus* of the blood, allay heat and thirst, to *cool* the whole body, promote perspiration, and

* The *saline draughts* which every family are taught to make from salt of wormwood, lemon juice, &c. that have been used ever since the times of *Riverius* and *Sylvius*, a period of above an hundred years, with a most credulous veneration, may be drank in pints without any very sensible effect by persons not suffering under *putrid diseases*: what use a two-ounce draught of this sort can be supposed to possess in any important disease, need not be mentioned. When learned physicians adopt this preparation, it is with intention to do little or nothing, and is an innocent remedy in trifling diseases, though improper in putrid.

and to dissolve the *viscid crasis* of the blood, &c. &c.

All these practices have been clearly proved to be founded in blindly following medical fashions, rather than cool reflection on the nature of putrid diseases, unless in very particular instances.

These remedies, though frequently prescribed, are, in different degrees, *septic*. They are known to diminish the circulating powers, debilitate and relax the stomach and nervous system, cool, &c. and certainly are more likely to *promote*, than *correct* or *prevent* the putrefactive dissolution of the fluids.

They are admirably calculated for the *true inflammatory* diseases in their commencement, progress, and augmented state; but are exceptionable in the putrid stages.

When the blood and fluids are approaching to a state of dissolution, certainly no physician ought to prescribe what must give additional vigor to the disease, and injure the patient.

All those saline cooling medicines, as they are nominated, are allowed to render the blood more fluid, consequently opposite to
the

the indications in putrid diseases ; which are, to check the dissolution of the blood, invigorate the solids, and resist the putrid-dissolving acrimony, as hath been repeatedly said.

If, however, it could be supposed that *saline draughts*, produce no mischief, it appears very reasonable that they are not likely to prove beneficial. In such an acute dreadful disorder as the putrid-tending sore throat, in which there is neither *time* for *omissions*, nor *superficial practice*, it is a desperate game to hazard the lives of mankind, by losing the earliest opportunities of curbing or counteracting the destructive tendency of the disease.

It has been observed, that the *heat* of putrid diseases is caused by a state of the blood different from the *true inflammatory* ; therefore, if bleeding, evacnants, saline coolers, are proper in the inflammatory, which no physician doubts, bark, vitriolic acids, &c. are injurious : if these last remedies absolutely cure putrid diseases, stop mortifications, &c. the proofs of which are numerous, *saline coolers*, by acting oppositely, must *do mischief*.

No arguments whatever can induce several physicians, particularly on the Continent, to depart

depart from the doctrines they have imbibed ; one often succeeds another, not only in situation and fame, but likewise in sentiments. They pronounce it *charlatanerie* to deviate from the precepts of their universities, schools, or professors, which they blindly follow with implicit zeal and confidence, as though the art of medicine could not receive any improvement, or that innovations were criminal : thus thousands are slaughtered annually by prejudices, under the most solemn appearances of medical wisdom and security.

If the boundaries of *quackery* and *rational regular* medicine were stated judiciously, those who follow any *beaten track* of medical practice, without reflection on times, seasons, differences of constitutions, ages, sexes, &c. wherever educated, deserve the denomination of *quacks* : those who prescribe remedies with the most satisfactory reasons improved medicine affords, merit alone the appellation of *regular physicians*.*

* No sensible regular physician can suppose his knowledge or dignity consists in being educated at any particular university, college, or country ; nor will any but those who have nothing else to recommend themselves *assume* importance on such a *superficial foundation*. The acquisition of knowledge does not depend on place, nor long residence in any learned seminary ; but in the industry

Fourteen other exceptionable Practices.

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|---|---|
| 1. Bleeding. | 9. Suffering the patients to |
| 2. Nitrous, or other im-
proper gargles. | sleep. |
| 3. Vomiting. | 10. Not freely admitting
fresh air. |
| 4. The detention of patients
in bed. | 11. The giving animal broths,
milk, beef tea, jellies, &c. |
| 5. Blistering. | 12. Volatiles. |
| 6. Promoting perspiration by
James's powder, tartar emetic,
&c. | 13. The depending upon in-
efficacious remedies. |
| 7. Checking purgings sud-
denly by opium. | 14. The not administering
the bark, &c. on the first ap-
pearance of the disease. |
| 8. Not cleansing the ulcers
of the throat. | |

Necessary

industry and mental endowments of the student, and a fervent inclination to avail himself of every opportunity of acquiring the practical as well as theoretical principles of the art. It must, however, be confessed, that large cities and hospitals are the grand places for the attainment of practical knowledge, when under the guidance of truly learned physicians and surgeons. For my own part, after reviewing almost every hospital throughout Europe, I am convinced the whole art of medicine is capable of much improvement; and I consider it the duty of physicians, in all countries, to be as ready, at any time of life, to receive instruction, as to diffuse useful knowledge. I differ totally from those learned gentlemen, who are displeased at being informed of what they did not before understand.

These observations are intended for those medical practitioners who build their reputation, and affect dignity on the fame of the school, college, hospital, or professor, from whence they received their education, as though preceptors or places were accountable for the abilities of scholars, when they can only confer degrees.

Necessary Remedies in the Cure of the ulcerated Sore Throat.

Laxatives.

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|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Antiseptic laxatives of fena. | 5. Infusion of chamomile flowers and fena. |
| 2. Tamarinds. | 6. Compound powder of fena. |
| 3. Cremor Tartar. | 7. Rhubarb. |
| 4. Tincture of fena. | |

Gargles.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Composed of acid elixir of vitriol, and water. | 4. Vinegar and sage tea. |
| 2. The tincture of roses, &c. | 5. Currant jelly, or currant juice with water, &c. |
| 3. Tincture of myrrh, tincture of bark, and camphorjulep. | 6. Red port, water, and lemon juice. |

Antiputrescent Remedies for internal Use.

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|---|---|
| 1. Bark in powder. | 8. Acid elixir of vitriol, from 10 to 20 drops in a dose. |
| 2. Aromatic spices, or powdered ginger. | 9. Sweet elixir of vitriol, from 40 drops to one dram and a half. |
| 3. Extract of bark in cinnamon water. | 10. Hoffman's anodyne mineral liquor, from 20 to 60 drops. |
| 4. Huxham's tincture of bark added to mixtures. | 11. Camphor. |
| 5. Decoction of bark with the acid of vitriol. | 12. Bitter spirituous tinctures. |
| 6. Powder of snakeroot with the bark. | |
| 7. Tincture of snakeroot. | |
- These two last rarely necessary.

Drinks.

1. Tincture of roses.*
2. Water acidulated with water.
the acid of vitriol.
3. Lemonade.
4. Cremor tartar dissolved in water, called Imperial.
5. The acid juices of fruits with water.
6. Currant jelly dissolved in
7. Orange juice and water.
8. Red port, or red port and water, negus, &c.

Remedies to remove or counteract the Causes of Purgings.

1. Powder of rhubarb, to 20 or 30 grains.
2. Extract of logwood, dissolved in simple cinnamon water, two drams of the former to six ounces of the latter.
3. Japan earth, powdered, in cinnamon water, two drams to six ounces.
4. Dulcified elixir of vitriol to a tea spoonful and a half, with any of the before mentioned compositions.
5. Hoffman's anodyne liquor to 60 drops in simple cinnamon water.
6. Opiates, if absolutely necessary.

Domestic

* This composition has been recommended in putrid diseases above an hundred and sixty years. Poterius says, "*Ufus est in febribus putridis, cor exhilarat, & ardorem febris compescit, sitim etiam extinguit.*" Such a practice was quite superior to Sydenham's, and many others, who have been praised as great physicians; but I call such physicians mere *spectators of diseases*: they have admirably described fevers in all their stages and variety of symptoms, when suffered to *ravage uncontrolled* in the constitution, without any rational attempts to cure. That silly notion of
a fever

Domestic Management.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Purifying the air of the room. | 6. Burning of Benzoin. |
| 2. Removal from the infected place, or to an upper airy part of the house. | 7. ——— Pitch. |
| 3. Fumes of vinegar. | 8. ——— Resin. |
| 4. Explosions of gunpowder. | 9. ——— Shavings of yellow faunders. |
| 5. Burning of Frankincense. | 10. ——— Tobacco. |
| | 11. ——— Lavender, rosemary, &c. |

Other Regulations in the sick Chamber.

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|---|--|
| 1. Patients to sit up as much as possible. | mediately carried out of the sick room. |
| 2. Linen to be daily changed. | 7. The room to be kept cool. |
| 3. Bed curtains to be taken down. | 8. No broths or animal diet whatever to be admitted. |
| 4. All woollen or cotton clothes to be removed. | 9. Sleep never to be long indulged. |
| 5. Few visitors admitted. | 10. The mouth and throat to be frequently gargled. |
| 6. All evacuations to be im- | |

Foods,

a fever being an *effort of nature* to throw off what irritated the habit; their fallacious notions of *critical days* blinded their senses, in fruitless expectations of *nature doing wonders* in fevers. I assert, that fevers are curable or not curable, in proportion as the preceding health of the patient has been sound or debilitated, as the viscera may be healthful, or not, and as the fever may be treated, in the beginning, judiciously or injudiciously.

Foods, or Aliments.

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Panada, with wine. | 6. Rice. |
| 2. Sago. | 7. Barley pudding. |
| 3. Salep. | 8. Roasted apples and bread. |
| 4. Simolina. | 9. Any acid fruits with |
| 5. Tapioca. | bread soaked in wine. |

These remedies, or foods, are to be occasionally prescribed, excluded, or varied, according to the judgment of medical practitioners: every one has a just right to administer whatever, in repeated instances, may have been found salutary, only recollecting, that all *septic*, *saline* medicines are improper in disorders of a putrid nature, and that *single* instances of success, or an *escape from death* by the worst modes of treatment, ought never to be a guide for general practice.

*On the putrid sore Throat, joined with the
Scarlet Fever, amongst Children.*

The scarlet fever and putrid sore throat, so rife and so fatal, if not well treated, amongst children, demands some consideration. Whole families have had the disorders

ders lately, and great numbers have died, I am concerned to say, in many instances, from the use of saline remedies, and the other erroneous practices. The methods which have proved very successful in numerous instances, are the following:

In domestic and medical management and treatment, the antecedent have been observed, except, that as children are not so easily prevailed on to take the bark in substance, the tincture of roses is always used as drink, and the following mixture has been given:

℞ Extract. cort. Peruv. ℥ij. solve in decoct. ejusdem ℥vijs.
 Tinct. ejusd. ℥fs.
 Acid. vitriol. dilut. gr. xxx.
 Syr. simp. ℥fs. f. mistura, de qua capiat coch. ii. secundâ,
 tertiâ vel quartâ quâque horâ.

The Translation.

Take of Extract of bark two drams, dissolve in seven ounces of decoction of bark.

Tincture of bark half an ounce.

Acid elixir of vitriol thirty drops.

Half an ounce of sugar syrup: mix, and take two table spoonfuls every second, third, or fourth hour.

Thus have been delivered free sentiments on disorders, that have lately proved fatal in various parts of England, particularly in and about

about London. If the doctrines advanced be judiciously and candidly applied, they may become very useful, and preserve many lives.

When the malignant sore throat, or putrid fevers appear, they should be promptly cured, by which the infection will be much prevented from spreading; because they are not so contagious while recent, as when suffered to continue and increase their putridity several days, in hopes of a remission of the febrile symptoms, or a *crisis*. The former methods *prevent*, the latter *promote*, the malignant contagion. By the old treatment, they are likely to ravage through families, towns, and cities; by the new, individuals only suffer, and mankind in general are preserved. There is great reason to conclude, that a similar practice, and preventive method, would effectually check every species of *putrid disease*, and perhaps the *plague* itself in *Turkey*, &c.

F I N I S.

